'PETTING, DRINK' STATEMENT

HOBART student leaders yesterday branded as "ill informed" and exaggerated the school principals' criticism of sex, drinking, and poor social behaviour at teenage parties.

Defending young people's "new morality", one student said the principals' statement had left the exaggerated impression that most student parties were "sex and beer orgies".

Another said Tasmania's drinking age restrictions were partly to blame for under-age and excessive drinking at unsupervised parties.

Meanwhile, the Education Department has refused to comment officially on controversial statements about under-age drinking, "petting parties" and poor social behaviour at teenage parties reported yesterday that they had caused little reaction.

But:

- Parents and friends' associations and education leaders hailed the statement as "timely".
- Most put the blame for the "declining morality" on the parents' shoulders.
- One high school principal said some parents often "failing" even to the point of "acting a series of untruths" to get their children off detention duties.

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Parental control

The statement, released on Friday, was signed by the signatures of the principals of 19 high schools in the State schools Federation Conference, expressed concern at under-age and excessive drinking at teenage parties; "generation-gap" by uninvited violence; lack of supervision at teenage parties; and a general lowering of standards by indiscriminate "mucking" and "petting", especially at informal parties.

Seventeen-year-old Duncan Kerr, president of the Students' Representative Council at Hobart Matriculation College, said yesterday he was "a bit of truth" in the principals' statement.

But he believed they had gone the wrong way about airing their views.

He predicted a "backlash" from their criticism — a clamping down on students in and out of school.

"And after the drink the petting starts. They get more bold."

Unsupervised drinking at hotels and cabarets would be preferable, said Michael.

"If they try to stamp it out completely they will only drive it to the cars and supervised parties."

Gatecrashing was a "real problem" at Battery Point, he said. "I'd say that hundreds of people had turned up [at parties] because they knew it was on."

Statement 'ill-informed'

The vice-president of the SRC at Elizabeth Matriculation College, 17-year-old John Langford, called the statement "ill informed" and "exaggerated."

He said there was a lot of alcohol at parties — but seldom was there much excessive drinking.

John admitted that often parties were held without the knowledge of parents who were away for the night — or the weekend.

Necking and petting was only seen at parties in isolated cases — "not enough to worry about".

Morality, according to John, was certainly not heading down hill. Drinking had changed.

What might not have been accepted to the older generation was more common place now.

He questioned that the principals could know what was going on among the young people.

The principal of Rosetta High (Mr W. L. Yaxley) said the problems of social behaviour listed matricula-tion more than high school students, but he added: "We occasionally become aware of unsavoury and sometimes hazardous incidents with alcohol."

On boy-girl relationships, he said: "The boys are waking up."

But generally there are problems with girls getting involved with older fellows."

Most parents, he said, set high standards. But some did not give the school the support it deserved.

"Some even try to put it over us — write notes with a series of untruths to get their children out of detention duties."

The president of the Tasmanian State Schools Parents and Citizens' Association, Mrs C. W. Smith, said she could not comment officially on the statement, but it set the right example and he hoped all the right people who were responsible for the trouble.

If there was too much drinking by parents, children were liable to follow the example.

Mr Smith, father of five, added: "If the parents are at the bookmakers, I often wonder where are the children?"

"If mum and dad are at the hotel, what's happen-

● Continued on Page 2.

Lower age of drinking

Generally, however, young people who indulged in this were willing to accept the responsibilities that came with it.

The Hutchins School captain, 17-year-old Michael Wertheimer, advocated a lowering of the drinking age to 18 as one way to help to the under-age drinking problem.

Matriculation colleges and students — the 17s and 18s — were at an awkward in-between age.

They were usually too old for organised teenage dances, and too young for hotels and cabarets.

Because there was "very little else to do" they had private parties.

The danger with this was that alcohol brought by individuals would become available to the younger

'YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT'

The inference that most element, because age at parties ranges between 15 and 18.

Alcohol at parties was an accepted social convention with both young and old.

"I don't think you can change this habit.

Duncan said: "I have been to a lot of parties and I've never been disgusted by what has happened.

"Generally, young people tend to be quite socially aware.

"They have their own standards and I think in my mind are high enough — at least three out of the conventional 10 standards.

He admitted necking and petting were "quite frequent" at parties, but said it was a "convention of the age."

AMA benefits change plan

SYDNEY. — The Australian Medical Association will submit proposals for major changes to the medical benefit schemes to the Commonwealth Government in the next few days.

The association announced this yesterday.

A plan has already been drawn up by a special AMA committee with representation from the medical benefit funds.

The AMA has made it clear that a list of most common fees cannot be regarded as a fixed schedule which doctors would be bound to follow.

Special skills

Fixed fees, the AMA has stated, take no account of special skills or eminence.

They did not allow for extra payment for services which proved unexpectedly long or difficult, or for discovering doctors from distant places whose fees in necessitous cases.

A meeting yesterday of the Federal Council of the AMA supported the proposition that doctors should, wherever practicable, discuss the question of fees with their patients.

The council also resolved that benefit funds should not withhold payment in opposition about the medical benefits to which they are entitled.

The plan is based on a simple table of benefits for each State related to computer studies of what doctors most commonly charge for their various services, the AMA said.

The AMA vice-president (Dr R. H. Macmillan) said details of the plan could not be revealed at this stage.

In Tasmania

Doctors' practice costs in Tasmania have risen by 70 per since June, 1965, the general secretary of the AMA (Dr M. Thomson) said last night.

He said costs had risen by 7 p.c in the past two years.

"The AMA in Tasmania, unlike other States, does not recommend actual fee increases," he said.

"We began it continuing 1965, and every three months these figures are available in the Tasmanian newsletter sent to AMA members.

"It is up to the individual doctors what fees they charge.

"If a doctor approaches the AMA on what fees he should charge, the recommendation will be given, but it is up to the doctor whether he adopts it or not.

"When our economic survey began in 1965 the average fee was $3.

"This rose to $3.50 last year. Further increases may be making adjustments at present with the recent increases in other States."

Apollo set for launch —as Reds keep watch

CAPE KENNEDY. — Technicians have started preparing Apollo 11 for Wednesday's blast off to the moon, as Russian warships cruise off the Florida coast.

Us planes and ships kept a watchful eye on Russian fishing fleet stationed to be in the Cape Kennedy area on the day of the launch.

The Soviet flotilla is on its way to Cuba for an official visit and consists of a cruiser, destroyer, tanker, two submarines and a support tender.

The Us Navy and Air Force have a show for the Russians on Friday — planes flying formations over the ships. The invitations made no response.

It is the largest Soviet naval fleet to visit the area for some time.

The three astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin Aldrin, Jr, will have a 60-hour journey to the moon, continued their training yesterday.

Armstrong and Aldrin will land on the moon's surface, spend the day rehearsing in the lunar module simulator. Collins spent the morning in the spacship simulator.

Later in the afternoon Collins practised docking manoeuvres in a T-38 jet trainer.

Collins' flight in the small jet is to sharpen his reflexes and give him more practice in a weightless environment. He flew while both arms in the air which produced nearly zero gravity conditions for a few seconds.

Armstrong spent some time in a helicopter and his programme included a flight training designed to car-

Soviet attempt to get moon rock

MOSCOW. — The Soviet Union yesterday launched an unmanned craft towards the moon in what may be an eleventh-hour attempt to beat the Americans in the race to land equipment on the moon, and then return it to earth.

The craft, Luna-15, was blasted off early yesterday from an unspecified point in the Soviet Union — only three days before the scheduled launching of Apollo 11 in an attempt to land the first men on the moon.

An official announcement said the aim of the soviet flight is to "further their scientific studies of the moon and near-moon space."

This vague phrase, used to describe the aim of most recent Soviet moon-shots, did not give away anything of the shot's precise aims.

For months Communist sources have been predicting that the Russians would try to land a craft on the moon and bring it back to earth, with a sample of moon soil before the Apollo 11 astronauts set foot on the moon.

keep his reflexes in top condition.

Friday night, before the first built-in hold in the Apollo countdown, began, technicians on the launch pad finished servicing the primary cooling system on the lunar module, using a water glycol solution similar to anti-freeze in a

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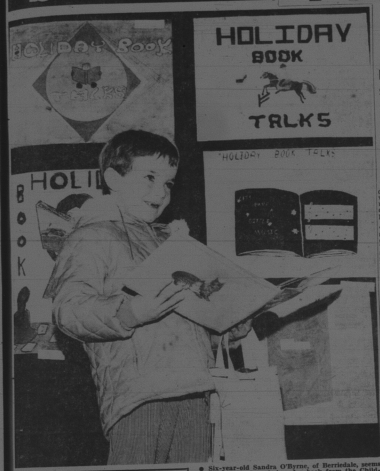
Sandra's a book fan



● Six-year-old Sandra O'Byrne, of Berriedale, seems delighted with her choice of a book from the Children's Library in the city on Saturday. She also took the opportunity to have a close look at a display of exhibits by members of the library in a competition to promote books. Fifty-eight entries were entered. AWARD WINNERS, PAGE 7.

BAY by BAY

A BRIDGEWATER woman's form with an axe on the domestic woodheap on Saturday was so good that a passer-by was prompted to ask her if she was getting ready for the show chopping events.

★

TWO packets of crumpets bought at a Hobart store at the weekend had the usual notches and one crumpet in each packet. Scorch marks and crumpets were not a "special"!

★

IN a TFL reserves match on Saturday Hobart scored 15.19 to 10.10 against Launceston. The Clarence seniors returned the compliment, scoring 15.10 to defeat Hobart.

★

IT was a day for "modarks" on the North-West Coast.

When Ray Walker (Penguin) and Kevin Symons (Burnie) tossed for ends at their NWFU roster match at Penguin, the coin disappeared in the mud. When it was recovered, the two skippers left the field to toss again on firmer ground.

★

IF it saves time and cuts costs, the Americans will have invented it.

Their latest is an electronic device to help overweight people exercise at work, watching TV, or just lazing around the house. It will slip it on, twiddle a couple of dials . . . and you have instant exercise guaranteed to whittle away those pounds of fat without moving out of your chair.

★

FROM the 24 marbles in the winning owner's $500 jackpot at Elwick on Saturday the acting chairman of the Hobart Turf Club (Mr A. J. Dolan) withheld No 6, which corresponded with the No 6 on the scrow. Kiri Boy. However, Mr Dolan was unlucky as Kiwi Boy could finish only fourth in the Fourth Battalion Brush Hurdle.

Vigilant

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'Good as ever'

"I FEEL as good as when I started," said dynamic North Hobart rover Des Graham on the eve of his 200th game for the Demons.

yesterday will probably do me," said Graham at the Ryde St stand.

He has played in four North Hobart premiership sides

Bottle thrown at fight

A SOFT drink bottle tossed from the City Hall gallery cut Brendan Topp's right elbow as he alleged his way to the Tasmanian welterweight professional title last night.

As Topp — right on top of Lauriston fighter John Terry — tried for the kill in the 10th and final round, the bottle sailed into the ring, bounced and hit Topp.

Police raced up to the gallery as a spectator rose to his feet and shouted: "That's him!"

As spectators left the hall, policemen were interviewing a man.

The bottle incident happened just after Topp had thrown Terry to the canvas to weariness after a punch.

Both fighters were having their first bouts for several years and threw plenty of leather in a crowd-pleasing battle.

Topp, great for the "pull" from the first bell and only a left cut to discourage got him to the last round.

In rounds eight and nine, Terry slipped several times on water in Topp's corner — and the crowd booed.

Results — Amateurs: R. Kay (Franklin) d J. Barber (Clarence) points; P. Horne (Bothwell) d M. Tapp (Glenorchy), points; W. Paul (Franklin) d R. Cuttle (Glenorchy), points; M. Place (Glenorchy) d M. Clark (Franklin), points; G. Horne (Bothwell) d H. Pregnell (Clarence), points; Bob Townsend (New South Wales) d. D. Lovell (Franklin), points.

Professional: Jimmy Hinds (Hobart, 9.0) d Garry Mayne (Hobart, 9.4), points; Marcello Gulotti (Launceston, 10.0) d Peter Bonello (Hobart, 9.6), points; Brendan Topp (Hobart, 10.0) d John Terry (Launceston, 10.3), points.

England's tail folds

LEEDS, England. — The West Indies yesterday bowled an early wicket in every to England's first innings 228 on the second day of the third test.

After Yarbrough, Snow and Gary Sobers had mopped up the remaining three England wickets in 20 minutes, overnight scoring 161 for four, losing Boycott, Edrich and Cowdrey early in the day.

Boycott will run in the mile Welter.

At Festival Hall, Wales had won only one round when Gulino reeled back from a left swing and was seen shuttle in the ring corner. He left eyebrow opened, and blood streamed from the injury.

Gulino fought desperately for the final two minutes of the round, and the Welsh Sunday Mirror's referee, Ron Thomas, awarded Anthony Palmer-Jones to Reilly to stop the fight.

Eye gashed; Gulino loses title

MELBOURNE. — Jacky Gulino lost his title last night but his conqueror, Lionel Rose (NSW) also lost something outstanding — a hard early in the fight.

At Festival Hall, Wales had won only one round when Gulino reeled back from a left swing and was seen shuttle in the ring corner. He left eyebrow opened, and blood streamed from the injury.

Gulino fought desperately for the final two minutes of the round, and the Welsh Sunday Mirror's referee, Ron Thomas, awarded Anthony Palmer-Jones to Reilly to stop the fight.

Time beat us"; Golven not to run

BRISBANE. — Veteran trainer Alf Sandy last night abandoned the fight to get early favourite Golven to the post in today's Doomben Cup.

"Time has been on us"; Sandy said. "He has gone very well since his Tvn Tiloomba run, Mr Stanley said. "We have the best jockey in the land, in Gregg Moore. Let's hope we have a Cup winner on the day."

Golven ricked his back muscles when his hind legs went from under him during a routine training gallop at Southport on Thursday.

His jockey, Doug Moore, said: "I felt the muscles in the saddle, severely cramping his right ankle.

Until the mishap, Golven had reigned as 5-2 favourite for the Cup.

His forced withdrawal will cut punters through, without Australia a chance to win a fortune in bets.

On a conservative estimate, he will be responsible for around $400,000 without tax.

Black Onyx, for at least $400,000 without tax.

Golven's withdrawal changed the weights and Gary Sobers has topped up the remaining three England wickets in 20 minutes, overnight scoring 161 for four, losing Boycott, Edrich and Cowdrey early in the day.

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rwent Sailing Squadron starting

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badminton ches today

state badminton matches in Hobart de the "A" grade and under 17

(capt), S. Sweet, S. Dellaver, D. Grant, G. Darling, E. Byers, D. Groom, bridge, C. Smith.

D. Hardy (capt), R. McPhee, T. Wise, M. Browne, R. Hitch, J. Koay

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Fleeing guerrillas cut down on slopes

Qantas 'escape' closed

SYDNEY. — Trade union decisions announced yesterday in New Zealand and New Guinea will prevent Qantas aircraft being diverted to those places from Australian destinations.

Qantas services will continue as usual for at least two days unless the ban is withdrawn, a spokesman said last night.

Australian ground staff.

Employees of Air New Zealand and TAA are involved in the refusal to service extra Qantas flights through New Zealand and Port Moresby.

They will continue to man regular scheduled flights.

The strike by about 3,000 Qantas ground staff began at 8am. Four flights were cancelled and passengers waiting to man a crane decided to "black" by their union.

Seventeen unions have banned the machine, and also banned overtime, as part of a campaign for an increase of $2.50 in every award payments to Qantas ground staff.

Qantas yesterday offered to re-open negotiations on the pay increase if the ban returned to work and lifted all bans.

Union officials will meet today to discuss the airline's proposal.

SAIGON. — North Vietnamese soldiers fleeing down the slopes of Black Virgin Mt to escape American bombers were cut down by a deadly volley from US infantrymen.

A US Command spokesman said 93 guerillas died here, hiding out in the rugged western side lower slopes of the Black Virgin Mountain, 55 miles Virgin, 55 miles north-west of Saigon. In crowded Sv a US casualty bonus of fulfilling neither.

Describing the action, the spokesman said the guerrillas were cut down "like ducks" by firing on the American jet F100 Supersabre fighters flying bombing raids over the mountain.

The battle followed a morning of raids on "C" sanctuaries in the mountain area.

It was the first time the mountain, which is sacred to the Cao Dai religion, has been hit by Mig.

The Cao Dai is a fusion of Christian, Buddhist and Confucianism doctrines, and has millions of followers.

Seven Americans were killed and 11 wounded in other fighting around the country.

The base of the 173rd airborne brigade in Long Khan-about 20 miles north-east of Saigon — was also attacked by mortars.

Some fatey tales say it is haunted.

The North Vietnamese —AAP-Reuter.

Near Laos

There were two more B52 raids yesterday, but more farther north near the Laotian border in Quang Nam province, about 30 miles north of Saigon.

Local legends

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STOP PRESS
Secret US talks
WASHINGTON — The US Senate is expected to hold a rare secret session this week as part of its deliberations on President Nixon's controversial plan to destroy an anti-ballistic missile system. Administration before any disarmament agreement is reached with Russia. The system would be designed to knock out attacking enemy nuclear warheads before they reach American soil.—AAP.